

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2702
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026

ELECTRIFICATION OF REMOTE FOREST AND TRIBAL VILLAGES

2702. SMT. MAHUA MAJI

Will the Minister of New and Renewable Energy be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State-wise number of families deprived of reliable electricity in remote forest and tribal villages solely due to waiting for the extension of the main electricity grid has been assessed;
- (b) whether there is a proposal to develop a solar, battery, and local micro-grid-based 'Energy Access Guarantee Model' for such villages; and
- (c) whether a pilot implementation of this model will be undertaken to provide 24-hour essential electricity in the inaccessible forest villages of Jharkhand?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) As per the information received from Ministry of Power, electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity to all consumers is within the purview of the respective State Government/ distribution utility. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through various schemes to help achieve the objective of providing quality and reliable supply of power to all consumers.

As per Rule (10) of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, the distribution licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all consumers. However, the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture.

Government of India is supporting the States for grid electrification of left-out households under the ongoing Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Under RDSS, on-grid electrification works amounting to Rs. 6,521 crore have been sanctioned for electrification of 13.65 lakh left-out households, wherever found feasible, including households belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) identified under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN); Scheduled Tribes (STs) under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA); Scheduled Castes (SCs) under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY); and households in remote and border areas under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), wherever found feasible. Further electrification works have also been taken up by the States of Gujarat, West Bengal and Odisha under State plan for 52,071 households (15,736 households under PM-JANMAN and 36,335 under DA-JGUA). As on 23.07.2026, 4.88 lakh households have been electrified under RDSS.

(b) & (c) There is no proposal under consideration to develop 'Energy Access Guarantee Model' for villages in this Ministry. However, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the New Solar Power Scheme [for PVTG and Tribal Habitations/Villages] under PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA for the electrification of un-electrified households in PVTG and Tribal habitations/villages, solarisation of Multi-Purpose Centres (MPCs) in PVTG areas and solarisation of public institutions in identified tribal habitations/villages through off-grid solar systems; where grid connectivity is not techno-economically feasible.

Further, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) has informed that Government of Jharkhand is implementing "Rural Electrification of un-electrified villages through Mini/Micro off Grid systems" scheme with 100% State funding to provide reliable 24x7 essential electricity to inaccessible and unelectrified villages of Jharkhand. Under the scheme, off-grid solar power plants with battery backup are installed along with a dedicated distribution network and internal house wiring. Total 859 mini-grids are currently in operation in Jharkhand and providing electricity to inaccessible remote forest and tribal villages of the State.
